

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02

RSR-01 /247 W

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R 240753Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1363

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS GENEVA 4554

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJECT: LOS: MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 22

1. SUMMARY: US REP (STEVENSON) GAVE STATEMENT IN MAIN COMMITTEE (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL), COMMENTING ON PREPARATIONS FOR LOS CONFERENCE, INDICATING US SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR BOTH DEEP SEABEDS AND FISHERIES ASPECTS OF TREATY, AND STRESSING NEED FOR COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES. REMAINDER OF SESSION DEVOTED TO STATEMENTS ASSESSING PROGRESS OF PREPARATIONS AND APPROVAL OF SUBCOMMITTEE III REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. TANZANIA REP STATED PREPARATIONS FOR LOS CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE AND SOLUTIONS PROPOSED SO FAR TO IMPROVE PREPARATION WOULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEM. HE ASSERTED FAILURE TO AGREE WAS NOT DUE TO LACK OF TIME BUT TO LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. HE OBSERVED THAT AFRICAN GROUP HAD COME TO GENEVA EX-UNCLASSIFIED

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PECTING TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS. AFRICANS, HE SAID,

HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION COMMENTS AND CRITICISM MADE BY OTHERS REGARDING AFRICAN LOS POSITIONS, GIVING AS EXAMPLE TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUE. THOSE IN AFRICAN GROUP WHO HAD INTENDED TO EXTEND TERRITORIAL SEA HAD BEEN PREVAILED UPON TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER LOS CONFERENCE. HE STRESSED THE GROUP HAD TAKEN INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING STRAITS INTO CONSIDERATION AND HAD LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION ON THIS QUESTION. SIMILARLY AFRICANS HAD BEEN FLEXIBLE ON LAND-LOCKED ISSUE. HE COMPLAINED THAT AFRICAN WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE HAD NOT BEEN RECIPROCATED AND THIS HAD CAUSED BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT AND INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO AFRICAN APPROACHES, AFRICANS HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO "ZONE LOCK" OTHER STATES AND OF THREATENING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

HE EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT AT EFFORT TO DEFEND EXISTING LAW AND REFUSAL TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ECONOMIC ZONE. AS A RESULT, AFRICANS FELT CHEATED AND FEARED THEY HAD MADE GREAT MISTAKE IN COMPROMISING THEIR POSITIONS (E.G. STRAITS). HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSULTATIONS IN OTHER FORA BEFORE SANTIAGO.

3. COLOMBIAN REP DESCRIBED CONSENSUS ON "NEW TREND" IN INTERNATIONAL LAW REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PATRIMONIAL SEA OR ECONOMIC ZONE. HE SAID COASTAL STATES SHOULD HAVE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES IN ZONE BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEA BUT THIS RIGHT PRESUPPOSES COASTAL STATE OBLIGATIONS TOWARD INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. HE STATED THAT SOME MAJOR POWERS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE IN REGARD TO PATROMONIAL SEA CONCEPT CITING SPECIFICALLY PRC AND US (AMBASSADOR STEVENSON BY NAME). HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH UNNAMED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH CLAIMED TO BE REVOLUTIONARY BUT ARE IN FACT MOST CONSERVATIVE ON ISSUE.

4. USSR REP MADE VERY STRONG AND LENGTHY STATEMENT
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SAYING THAT PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE ARE COMPLETELY INADEQUATE. SITUATION, HE SAID, IS MOST UNSATISFACTORY IN REGARD TO ISSUES OF TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, NAVIGATION AND STRAITS, FISHERIES BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEA, AND OUTER BOUNDARY OF CONTINENTAL SHELF. FAILURE ON THESE CANNOT HELP AFFECT CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ISSUES AND WILL HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON TREATY

ON SEABEDS. SETTLEMENT OF LATTER ISSUE IS IMPOS-
SIBLE WHILE BOUNDARY QUESTION IS LEFT UNRESOLVED.
SOVIET REP COMPLAINED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS
DISCUSSION WITH REGARD TO SOVIET FISHING PROPOSAL AND
ARGUED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONE WOULD NOT INCREASE
FISHING CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES. HE
STATED THAT IF THERE WAS TO BE INTERNATIONAL AGREE-
MENT ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN-
TERESTS INCLUDING FISHING RIGHTS OF OTHER STATES.
SOVIET DEL SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE
ISSUES INCLUDING ISSUE OF ECONOMIC ZONE. ON STRAITS,
HE SAID, SOVIET PROPOSALS HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
VIEWS OF OTHER STATES INCLUDING SECURITY, POLLUTION
CONTROL, OVERFLIGHT INTERESTS OF STRAITS STATES. HE
EXPECTED OTHER COUNTRIES LIKEWISE TO ACCOMMODATE
SOVIET INTERESTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT STRAITS
PROBLEM MAY REMAIN WITHOUT SOLUTION BUT WARNED THAT
ECONOMIC ZONE MAY DO SO AS WELL. FINALLY HE STRESSED
CONCILIATORY SOVIET ATTITUDE IN REGARD TO SEABED EX-
PLOITATION WHERE SOVIETS ACCEPTED POSITION THAT BOTH
STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE
RIGHT TO EXPLOIT RESOURCES. HE CRITICIZED THAT
GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHICH ADVOCATE GIVING AUTHORITY
EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF EXPLOITATION. POLAND MADE
SIMILAR INTERVENTION STRESSING THAT PREPARATIONS
HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE.

5. CHAIRMAN MADE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO
ENCOURAGE DEBATE ON ADEQUACY OR INADEQUACY OF
PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE. HE STATED DIFFERENCES
ARE SO GREAT THAT ISSUE MUST BE LEFT TO UNGA TO
DECIDE. BASSIN
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA04554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730818/aaaaamrg.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 22
TAGS: PBOR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005